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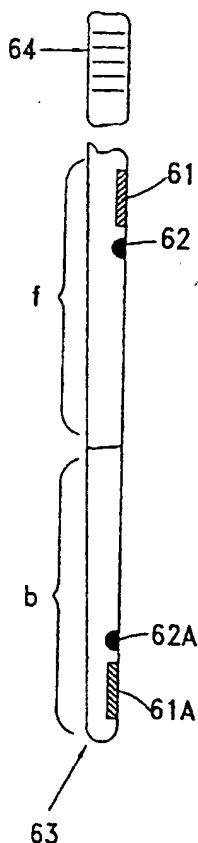
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: FUNDOPLICATION APPARATUS AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: An endoscopic device for the partial fundoplication for the treatment of GERD, comprises: a) a distal bending portion (b) and a flexible portion (f) suitable to be positioned in extended shape within the esophagus of a subject; b) a positioning assembly comprising two separate elements (62, 62A), one of which (62A) is located on said distal bending portion (b), and the other (62) on said flexible portion (f); c) a stapling assembly comprising a staple ejecting device (61A), wherein said staple ejecting device (61A) is located on either said bending portion (b) or on said flexible portion (f), said staple ejecting devices (61A) being in working positioned relationship when said two separate elements (62, 62A) of said positioning assembly are aligned; and d) circuitry for determining when said two separate elements (62, 62A) of said positioning assembly are aligned.

WO 01/67964 A3



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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

Pc./IL 01/00238

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 A61B17/068 A61B17/128 A61B1/00		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61B		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 395 030 A (KURAMOTO ET AL.) 7 March 1995 (1995-03-07) cited in the application abstract; figures ---	1
A	EP 0 630 612 A (ETHICON INC.) 28 December 1994 (1994-12-28) abstract; figures column 1, line 55 -column 2, line 29 column 5, line 34 -column 6, line 10 ---	1
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents : "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "8" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 2 October 2001		Date of mailing of the international search report 08.02.02
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Authorized officer GIMENEZ BURGOS, R

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International Application No

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Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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P,A	US 6 099 542 A (KIM ET AL.) 8 August 2000 (2000-08-08) claim 1 ---	41
A	US 5 727 553 A (SAAD) 17 March 1998 (1998-03-17) ---	
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A	DE 42 41 938 A (KARL STORZ GMBH & CO.) 16 June 1994 (1994-06-16) column 7, line 41 -column 9, line 33; figures ---	48

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/IL 01/00238

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.: 20-25, 56, 62
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
1-19, 26-53, 63, 64

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-19,26-53,63,64

Endoscopic device comprising a bending portion and a positioning assembly.

2. Claims: 54,55

Endoscope having an illumination channel and at least one objective lens.

3. Claims: 57-61

Endoscope comprising a system for measuring the distance between two objects.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PC L 01/00238

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